

REMARKS

Prior to the examination on the merits and calculation of the filing fee, entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. The specification has been amended to provide cross-reference to a related patent application. Claims 1-21 have been cancelled and new claims 22-28 have been added for consideration. New claims 22-28 do not add new matter.

Applicants are submitting a new specification and formal drawings and a copy of a signed declaration as filed in the prior application. The new specification and drawings do not contain any subject matter that would have been new matter in the prior application.

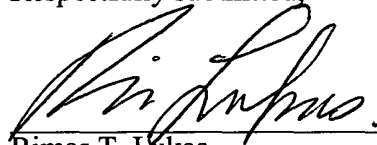
If it is determined that a telephone conversation will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number given below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 5, 2003

By:



Rimas T. Lukas
Registration No. 46,451

Lukas IP Group
P.O. Box 3295
Half Moon Bay, California 94019-3295
Telephone: (650) 560-0076
Facsimile: (650) 897-9944